

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231413
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DRAFTED BY EA/EX:K O HARRIS:JWM
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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STADIS////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE, SN

SUBJECT: MODE - COAST GUARD STAFF

1. IN RECLAMA TO MY DECISION TO CUT TWO AMERICAN
POSITIONS FROM MARINE SAFETY DETACHMENT, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION MAKES PERSUASIVE CASE FOR RETAINING TWO-MAN
OFFICE. MAJOR POINTS MADE INVOLVE EFFECTIVENESS OF
TWO-MAN STAFF AS CONTRASTED TO ONE-MAN OFFICE LEADING TO
CONCLUSION THAT COAST GUARD WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER
CLOSING DETAIL RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT
FUNCTIONS WITH ONLY ONE OFFICER. PRINCIPAL POINT IS
THAT TWO SPECIALISTS (ONE HULL, ONE MACHINERY) REQUIRED
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TO CARRY OUT FUNCTIONS PROPERLY, AND THAT ALTERNATIVE OF
RELOCATING THE MSD AND SENDING OFFICERS INTO THE SINGAPORE
REGION ON A TEMPORARY DUTY BASIS WILL INCREASE COSTS AND
RESULT IN DECREASED EFFICIENCY.

2. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION POINTS OUT THAT ACTIVITY
IN SINGAPORE (CONSTRUCTION, DRY-DOCKING, REPAIRS);

ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN U.S. FLAG VESSELS OPERATING IN AREA (INCLUDING PROJECTED INCREASE IN LNG VESSELS TO SEVEN); AND ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING THAT MSD WOULD HAVE REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, ALL POINT TO SINGAPORE AS MOST EFFECTIVE SITE FOR MSD. LETTER ALSO MENTIONS THAT DETAIL

WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED AT REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO SUPPORT U.S. SHIPPING INTERESTS IN AREA, AND THAT CLOSING OFFICE WILL RESULT IN INCREASED WORKLOAD FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS IN SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, AND INDONESIA.

3. GIVEN ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY COAST GUARD AND ALTERNATIVE OF CLOSING OFFICE, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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